

Arlington STM 2023 - Article 12 requests

Greetings Town Meeting Members,

Given the high degree of public interest in the proposed zoning changes for MBTA Communities under Article 12 (*Zoning Bylaw Amendment: MBTA Communities Overlay District*), I am expanding the opportunity for Town Meeting Members to register their desire to speak or ask questions. Allowing requests to be made in advance provides an additional source of speaker requests, and does not replace the speaker queue that is used during the meeting. I believe that allowing – but not requiring – registration of requests in advance can relieve some of the stress that TMMs may experience when the speaker queue opens for articles with particularly high stakes.

Article 12 is expected to be addressed at Town Meeting no earlier than Monday, October 23. In the meantime, Town Meeting Meetings are invited to request to speak or to submit a question about Article 12 in advance using this form which will close Thursday, October 19 at 5pm. While there is no expectation of questions being answered in advance, submitted questions will be shared publicly and anonymously to facilitate preparation by all parties for debate. Submitted questions that are not accompanied by a request to speak may be read aloud by the Moderator for the sake of efficiency, with attribution given to the TMM who submitted the question, i.e. questions cannot be asked anonymously at the meeting.

Please limit one response per Town Meeting Member. Registering in advance to speak or to submit a question does not guarantee an opportunity to address the meeting. The order and selection of speakers or questions is at my discretion as Moderator, and I will do my best to ensure that a diversity of perspectives and questions are recognized during debate. Do not use this form with the intention of "reserving" a position in the speaker queue to make a motion to terminate debate; motions to terminate debate will be recognized by the Moderator only from the live speaker queue at the meeting.

The form will capture the following information from Town Meeting Members:

Check all that apply:

- I wish to speak IN SUPPORT of the Redevelopment Board's recommended vote on Article 12.
- I wish to speak IN OPPOSITION to the Redevelopment Board's recommended vote on Article 12.

- I wish to speak about amendments or substitute motions under Article 12.
- I wish to ask a live question about Article 12.
- I wish to make other comments at Town Meeting related to Article 12.

I would like the following question to be asked about Article 12, read to the meeting by the Moderator and attributed to me: _____

If this approach is successful for managing speaking requests for Article 12, I am open to considering a similar approach more broadly at future Town Meetings. I intend to discuss the efficacy of this approach at future meetings of the Town Meeting Procedures Committee.

Sincerely,
Greg Christiana
Arlington Town Moderator